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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 759  
By Mumpower

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Carles Jasper Godsey, Jr., who died heroically trying to rescue flood victims.

WHEREAS, it was with deep sadness that we learned of the death of Carles Jasper Godsey, Jr., who died heroically while trying to save the lives of flood victims; and

WHEREAS, for the 13 years prior to his death, Mr. Godsey had served admirably as a Sullivan County EMS and was a Paramedic and Field Training Officer; and

WHEREAS, the son of the late Cora B. and Charles J. Godsey, Sr., he was born on May 29, 1959 in Kingsport, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Godsey had one brother, Charles "Eddie" Godsey, and one sister, Patsy S. Dobbs; and

WHEREAS, his maternal grandparents were Betty and Frank Myers and his paternal grandparents were Townsey M. and Charlie G. Godsey; and

WHEREAS, his aunts were Peggy J. Clipse, Mamie Myers, Glade Myers, and Grace Myers, all of whom are deceased, and Jean Overbay, and Georgia Overbay who survive him; his uncles were Arlin Myers, who is deceased, and Leslie C. Godsey, Russell P. Godsey, Henry R. Godsey, and Willard J. Godsey, who survive him; and

WHEREAS, Carles Jasper Godsey, Jr. was a 1977 distinguished graduate of Sullivan High School, he received his Paramedic License from Northeast State Technical Community

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College in 1989 and was a part-time student working on his nursing degree at East Tennessee State University at the time of his death; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being an accomplished paramedic, he had taken numerous courses to further his knowledge and expertise in this important field.

WHEREAS, these courses included American Heart Association Advanced Cardiac Life Support; Basic Trauma Life Support; Pre-hospital Trauma Life Support; Pediatric Advanced Life Support; Neonatal Advanced Life Support; Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads courses on Vehicle Rescue Coordinator, Basic Vehicle Rescue, Advanced Vehicle Rescue, Vehicle Rescue Instructor, and School Bus Rescue; Aircraft Crash Fire and Rescue; Trench Rescue Level 1; Trench Rescue Level 2; Collapse 1995 Training (80 hours); East Tennessee State University Mountain Rescue; Alphred State Farm Medic; Alphred State Farm Medic Instructor; Confined Space Rescue and Vertical Rescue; Confined Space Entry Operations Level; Open Water Scuba Diver; Swift Water Rescue; Swift Water Rescue Instructor; and General Motors Vehicle Airbag; he was a valuable instructor at the First Fire and Rescue Conference; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Godsey had been an important member of the Kingsport Life Saving Crew since 1980, serving commendably on their Board of Directors and in several other important positions; and

WHEREAS, he was a member of the prestigious East Tennessee Urban Search and Rescue Task Force; and

WHEREAS, the highly regarded Mr. Godsey had also been a Flight Paramedic for WINGS Air Rescue since 1996; and

WHEREAS, he was selected for the unique honor of serving as an instructor in the informative first Trench Rescue Video; and

WHEREAS, in each of these roles, Carles Godsey had received considerable praise for his hard work, dedication, compassion and competence; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Godsey had been married for five years to Sherri Mumpower Godsey and the couple had been blessed with one daughter, Kaleia N. Godsey, who is 18 months old; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to commemorate the bountiful and purposeful life of Carles Jasper Godsey, Jr., who made the ultimate sacrifice of his life while heroically trying to save the lives of fellow human beings; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Carles Jasper Godsey, Jr., and express our condolences to his family and friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copies.